



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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First Hill Water System Improvements Project Project Status

Project Status | June 22, 2012

On June 12, our paving contractor completed all asphalt paving, which included planned permanent trench patching as well as the extended asphalt repair and paving throughout the project site. Major work for this project is now considered complete.

As of June 22, R. L. Alia Company (Alia) crews are working on the punch list of remaining items:

- Apply a second coat of paint to fire hydrants
- Adjust valve cans and lids
- Install asphalt berms
- Grade gravel shoulders
- Complete seeding
- Site cleanup

We anticipate that all work will be completed by the end of June. This will conclude construction of the final phase of the three-phase First Hill Water System Improvements Project.

In summary, this project resulted in a number of improvements to the water utility in the First Hill neighborhood:

- Replaced approximately 3,520 lineal feet of water main
- Converted an additional 3,500 lineal feet of water main from a gravity system to the First Hill pumping system
- Upgraded the service lines for approximately 140 water services
- Replaced eight fire hydrants
- Provided other system components upgrades

Contractors installed approximately 120 tons of asphalt to pave extended areas beyond the originally-planned trench patching areas. The extra paving repaired street surfaces which have deteriorated over time, and replaced asphalt in damaged areas that may have caused by construction activities and heavy equipment.

The newly-installed 8-inch water main, along with the upgraded First Hill Pump Station (completed in 2011), now provide adequate and safe fire flow capacity for homes in the First Hill neighborhood.

Project Status | June 2, 2012

R. L. Alia Company (Alia) crews have now completed all underground utility work for the First Hill Water System Improvements Project.

Alia began grinding asphalt the week of May 28 in preparation for pavement restoration. The construction contract requires Alia to provide permanent trench patching. However, during the last Project Progress meeting on May 24, the City of Mercer Island decided to extend pavement restoration beyond the trench patching in many locations, mainly to repair areas that have deteriorated over time and to replace asphalt in damaged areas, likely caused by construction activities and heavy equipment. For these reasons, Alia will do more grinding and paving throughout the project site than originally anticipated.

Some of you may ask why Alia has ground asphalt from some areas but has not immediately completed paving. There are several reasons:

- Paving is done on a 2-inch lift. The majority of trenches that have no extended pavement restoration have already received the required two 2-inch lifts and their finished surfaces match the existing roadway. However, in areas where extended paving is required, the crew has not yet placed the second 2-inch lift of asphalt. This second lift will be placed in all extended areas at the same time, to produce more consistent and smooth surfaces.
- By the end of Friday, June 1, Alia's crews had completed grinding in all areas for permanent trench patching. On Monday, June 4, they will resume work and begin grinding of the extended areas.
- According to Alia, they need time on Tuesday, June 5 to prepare the entire project area, including utility covers exposed from the grinding. Then, when the paving crew returns on Wednesday, June 6, the asphalt paving can be done completely and uniformly.

At this time, the City of Mercer Island is urging the residents to be extremely cautious when driving through the project areas. The streets and intersections with distinct vertical 'drops/lips' are:

- SE 33rd Street, from 72nd Avenue SE to the west end of the street
- 72nd Place SE, from 3300 72nd Place SE to SE 36th Street
- SE 36th Street, on the west half of the block between 72nd Place and 74th Avenue SE
- SE 32nd Street, between 74th Avenue SE and 74th Place SE
- Intersections of SE 33rd Street and 72nd Avenue SE
- Intersection of 72nd Avenue SE and SE 34th Street
- Intersection of SE 34th Street and 72nd Place SE
- Intersection of 72nd Place SE and SE 36th Street
- Intersection of SE 32nd Street and 74th Avenue SE (the round-about)
- Intersection of SE 32nd Street and 74th Place SE
- Throughout the project site where Alia needed to make small 'window cuts' along edge of road for water service connections

Residents are advised to be careful and patient for the next few days, especially when driving at night. Please go slowly and take time to go through these areas with care.

Project Status | May 29, 2012

Since the last project update on April 23, R. L. Alia Company (Alia) crews completed the following:

- Installed the remaining (approximately 1,260 lineal feet) of new 8-inch water main on:
 - SE 32nd Street, from 74th Avenue SE to 74th Place SE
 - SE 33rd Street, west of 72nd Avenue SE
 - 72nd Place SE, from SE 34th Street to SE 36th Street
- Completed the remaining seven water main connections
- Installed five new fire hydrants and reconnected one existing hydrant to the new water main (these five new hydrants are in addition to the three installed in April)
- Completed the switch-over of the existing 8-inch water main from a gravity system to the pump line system
- Completed all but six of the 139 water services (as of May 25, 2012)

In the upcoming weeks, Alia plans to do the following work:

- Abandon the existing main: Alia will complete the abandonment of the 4-inch water main and valves; only about 5% of this work remains.
- Property and landscaping restoration: Alia will clean up the work site and restore areas disturbed by the construction activities in locations where property damage has been identified by Mercer Island's City inspector and by Alia. Alia will coordinate with property owners to repair and restore the impacted areas to their original condition and to the owners' satisfaction.
- Permanent trench patching: During construction, Alia placed temporary asphalt patching on trenches that had been backfilled. At the end of the project, these temporary patches will be removed and Alia will use commercial grade, Class B asphalt to permanently patch these trenches.
- Water Utility property cleanup and restoration: The City of Mercer Island allowed Alia to use the Water Utility property across street from the booster pump station as a storage site for excavated materials, equipment and supplies. Alia will clean up and restore this staging site to its original condition.

Earlier this spring, Alia added an extra crew to the project. As a result, the anticipated project duration has reduced significantly. Alia estimates that all work will be completed by late June or early July, notably earlier than the original estimate of October, 2012.

Project Status | April 23, 2012

Since the last project update on March 26, R.L. Alia Company (Alia) crews have completed the following:

- Installed approximately 1,330 lineal feet of new 8-inch water main on:
 - 72nd Avenue SE (from SE 32nd Street to SE 34th Street)
 - SE 34th Street (between 72nd Avenue SE and 72nd Place SE)
 - 72nd Place SE (north of SE 34th Street)

These segments are now in service and all water services along this stretch of main lines have been transferred over.

- Installed approximately 670 lineal feet of new 8-inch water main on:
 - SE 32nd Street (between 72nd Avenue SE and 74th Avenue SE)

This segment has been disinfected and pressure tested. Water samples are being collected at the time of this writing. If the water sample test results are satisfactory, this main will be fully connected to the water system by Monday, April 23.

- Installed approximately 260 lineal feet of new 8-inch water main on:
 - SE 36th Street (between 72nd Place SE and 73rd Avenue SE)

This segment is in place, awaiting connections to the west and the east ends when other work is completed.

- Completed six of the 13 water main connections.
- Installed three new fire hydrants, which are now in full service.
- Converted more than 90% of the existing 8-in gravity supply line into a pump line. This new pump line provides higher water pressure, since it is connected to the First Hill Pump Station at the intersection of SE 32nd Street and 74th Avenue SE.
- Completed 44 of the 139 water service replacements.

During the week of April 23, Alia plans to do the following work:

- Cut and cap the 4-inch water main on:
 - 72nd Place SE (between SE 34th Street and SE 36th Street)Crews will also install four temporary water services.
- Install new 8-inch water main on:
 - 72nd Place SE (between SE 34th Street and SE 36th Street).
- Make three water main connections on:
 - SE 32nd Street (at 72nd Avenue SE and 74th Avenue SE)
- Continue water service replacement on:
 - SE 29th Street (between 72nd Avenue SE and 74th Avenue SE)
 - 74th Avenue SE (between SE 29th Street and SE 32nd Street)

As of April 20, 2012, Alia's work is ahead of the proposed schedule.

Project Status | March 26, 2012

The contractor, R.L. Alia Company, mobilized on March 13, 2012. They started work grinding the trench pavement the same week.

During the week of March 19, R.L. Alia Company worked on the following:

- Water service replacement:
 - On SE 29th Street, between 71st Avenue and 74th Avenue SE
 - On 74th Avenue SE, between SE 29th Street and SE 32nd Street
- Water main connection:
 - At the intersection of SE 29th Street and 71st Avenue SE
- Installation of new water main
 - At SE 34th Street, between 72nd Avenue SE and 72nd Place SE
 - At 72nd Place SE on the section north of SE 34th Street

This week (the week of March 26), the contractor is planning to do the following work:

- Continue water service replacement in the same area as last week; they will move south on 74th Avenue SE as work progresses.
- Complete the water main connection work at the intersection of SE 29th Street and 71st Avenue SE. This work requires a water main shutdown on Tuesday, March 27.
- Continue installation of the new water main on:

- 72nd Place SE and 72nd Avenue SE (both in the section between SE 32nd Street and SE 34th Street)

A total of 17 homes will be affected by the water main shutdown on Tuesday, March 27. Advanced notice was provided to the affected residents a week ago. Door hanger reminders were distributed to these homes today.

The contractor, R.L. Alia Company, remains on schedule as of today, March 26, 2012.

Project Status | February 27, 2012

On February 21, 2012, the Mercer Island City Council awarded the construction contract for the third phase of work to R.L. Alia Company, a general contractor from Renton. This phase of the project has been designed by The Blueline Group, LLC of Kirkland. R.L. Alia expects to begin construction in mid- to late March.